Growth of consumer durables

1299. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first month of the current fiscal, failed to bring cheer to Rs. 48,000 crore consumer durables industry with most categories including colour television, witnessing sluggish growth;

(b) if so, the main reasons of slow growth rate in the industry;

(c) the edible items of consumer durables where growth has been slow; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (d) No Sir. As per information provided by the Central Statistical Origanisation, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, most of the consumer durables including edible items have shown positive growth during the month of April, 2005 as compared to April, 2004.

Scam in PDS allocations

1300. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a multi-crore scam in the public distribution system of wheat allocated by the Central Government to the State for distribution among the people living above poverty line has come to light in Karnal District in Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons who have been arrested in this scam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) A complaint was received by the Government of Haryana on alleged diversion of wheat meant for APL families by Fair Price Shop (FPS) owners with the connivance of officials of Food & Supplies Department and Confed in Nissing Block of Karnal District. After enquiry of the complaint by the State Government it was observed that prima facie, there appears a large scale mis-appropriation of APL wheat in Nissing Block with the active involvement of officials of Food & Supplies Department. On the basis of the inquiry report, State Government placed under suspension six officers/officials of the Department of Food & Supplies. Simultaneously, the State Government has entrusted an inquiry to commissioner, Rohtak Division, which is in progress. In the meanwhile the licenses of 11 erring Fair Price Shop dealers have been suspended and show cause notices have also been issued to them for cancellation of the licenses. Further the Managing Director, Confed was directed to take action against the officers/officials of that organization. The District Manager and Store-Keeper of Confed in Karnal have been placed under suspension. Show-cause notices have also been issued to the transport contractors for forfeiting of the security money.

Procurement of wheat

1301. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the official procurement of wheat this season has been less than that during last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, with the actual procurement for the two years, separately; and

(c) the steps proposed by Government to ensure that low procurement this year does not lead to artificial increase in its prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.